

First Presbyterian Church  
2216 Avenue H  
Bay City, Texas 77414

### Return Services Requested



# THE PRESBYTERIAN PROCLAIMER

January 2023

## A Word From Our Pastor...

A New Year is upon us. Another time to refocus on what we should be as people of faith. We will be working on new things but not a new message. The story that never grows old, Jesus Christ, will always be the focus from the pulpit. It is my hope to continue to bring some old, traditional things mixed with different approaches to keep the salvation and eternal life message of our Lord fresh and challenging to each and every one. Pray that we can continue to draw those who would want to worship God in spirit and in truth. Our church average has grown throughout the year, and we will have a few more added to the roles soon. Praise God!

Pastor JayE continues to work at Houston Hospice and has now spent a year doing pulpit supply at the Presbyterian Church in Palacios. Her long-term health from her car accident continues to improve, but we still covet your prayers in that regard. Our endeavors this past year, outside and inside the church in serving the Lord, have been a blessing. I am planning to hold a confirmation class for a handful of children beginning in late February. As the Lord enables, we will continue to be a witness to whomsoever will, and we pray the Lord grant our prayer that our church be filled with people who worship in spirit and in truth.

As this past year leaves us, and we head into the new one, I ask that you keep the church in your prayers; lift up our leadership, all who are in Session, all who work within the church, and do not forget to pray for our secretary and our custodian. We all need your prayer support. As a last thing, I would ask that you pray especially for another group. About this time every year, at least one night, I spend dreaming of those I served with. After some decades, some of the names are gone, but most of the faces remain. Please keep all who serve, and have served, in your prayers. The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen.

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2216 Avenue H  
Bay City, Texas 77414  
(979) 245-8327

<https://baycitytexasfirstpresbyterian-church.com>  
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E-mail: [fpcbc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fpcbc@sbcglobal.net)  
Fax: (979) 244-4891

Pastor – Rev. Charley Shurtz  
Church Secretary – Karin Hill  
Choir Director/Accompanist – Donna Baskin  
Nursery - Carol Petersen and Karen Trobl  
Custodian - Angelica Alfaro  
Ministers - The Members of First  
Presbyterian Church

## **Committee Chairpersons for 2023**

Building & Grounds - Doug Huebner  
Christian Education -  
Congregational Care – Debbie Dennard  
Finance/Stewardship – Greg  
Westmoreland  
Nominating - Greg Westmoreland  
and Doug Huebner  
Outreach & Mission - Carol Petersen  
Personnel - Jim Coe  
Worship – Donna Baskin

Please Join Us in Prayer For.....

Jami Ruth Ahysen (Greg Westmoreland's sister), Bradley Allan (bone cancer surgery), Peggy Badders, Charlie & Hubert Boeker, Ann Bond, Joshua Campbell (cancer), Chip Cordes, Dorothy Cunningham, Bonnie Davis, Crystal Dominguez, Maria Espinosa, First Presbyterian Church Bay City & Growth, Zeinab Ghais, Robb Gentry, Adel Ghais & Family, Giovanni (Natalie Mullen's nephew), Paul Hanna, Dr. Bob Kelly, Nancy Knapik, Doris Layton (Karen Trobl's sister), Ruth Leissner, Sarah Leverett, Greg Loring, Jim Matthes, Ed Miller, Natalie Mullen, Martha Osina, Ritchie Pattison, Zelda Regalado & Family, Virginia Rhymes, Nancy Ryman, Kirby Savage & Family, Pastor Charley & JayE Shurtz, Britney, Zac, and Kade Shurtz, Sam and Sara Steele, James Trobl (oral surgery) and Karen Trobl.

Our active-duty military personnel: Spencer Hill, Aryn Pena, Allison McGrath, Brian Davis, and Dustin Needham.

All those who have suffered and been impacted by COVID.

Our local homeless community.

All students, teachers, and administrators for a safe, productive school year.

Spanish class at our church.

Our veterans and law enforcement.

Ukraine/Russian War and all those affected.

People of Afghanistan, Haiti, and our border crisis.

## **January 2023 – Lectionary Readings**

### **January 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

Isaiah 63:7-9 and Psalm 148; Hebrew 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

### **January 8 – Baptism of the Lord**

Isaiah 42:1-9 and Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

### **January 15 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 49:1-7 and Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

### **January 22 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 9:1-4 and Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

### **January 29—4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Micah 6:1-8 and Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

## **OUR SESSION**

Class of 2023:

Jim Coe

Debbie Dennard

Carol Petersen

Class of 2024:

Greg Westmoreland

Marc Hill

Class of 2025:

Donna Baskin

Doug Huebner



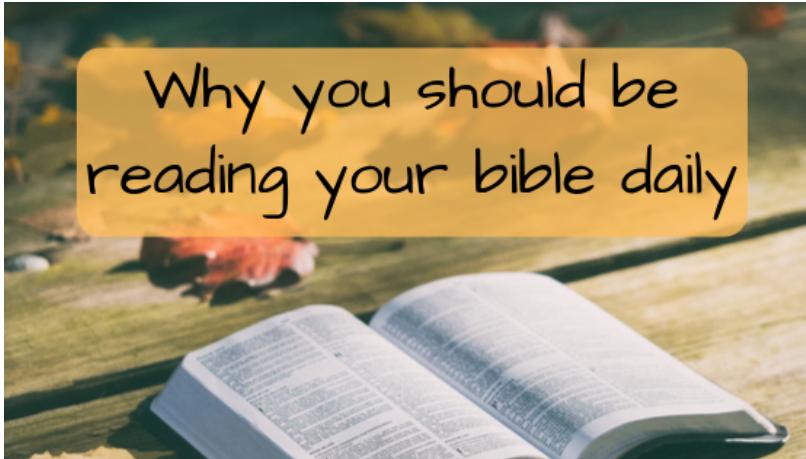
A huge "THANK YOU" to all who helped plan, create scenery, and signed up to participate in our Christmas Nativity. It is unfortunate that arctic temperatures kept us from having it, but on a happy note, we are all ready for next year!



Regularly scheduled grief counseling and grief support is a new chapter in our church's history. Thank you to Pastor Charley and JayE for adding this much needed ministry to our church!



Huebner, and Marc Hill will be installed as Elders for the Class of 2025. Join us in congratulating our new Session members on this special day!



Many of us look forward to a "fresh start" with the beginning of a new year. If you are looking to make a New Year's resolution that has the potential to change your life, ask a friend to be your "Bible Partner." You can hold each

other accountable to your promise to spend more time studying God's word.

Here are seven reasons to read your Bible:

1. It strengthens your relationship with God. "Bible reading opens a daily conversation between you and your Savior, in which you get to know Him better and He continues to love you more than you can imagine."
2. It feeds and transforms you. "The Holy Scriptures have a powerful way of guiding you toward becoming the person God created you to be."
3. It equips you with wisdom for living. God's word is just as pertinent today as it was when it was written. It gives you "practical tools for living your life in the here and now."
4. It sets an example for those you love. "Watching a loved one have a strong Bible reading habit makes it far more likely that those who see it will develop their own love of reading the Bible every day too."
5. You will discover your role in God's plan. "God has a plan for the world, and you are an integral part of that plan."
6. Your prayerfulness, fruitfulness, and discipleship will grow. "God's word does "not return to [Him] empty" (Isaiah 55:11), but rather produces great fruit in the lives of those who read and live it."
7. It will expand your sense of wonder. "Allowing the mysteries of Scripture and all you don't know – but hope to know – soak in as you go about your day, expands your wonder, until that hunger for God is ultimately fulfilled in heaven."

## JANUARY'S IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday School for Youth and Adults:	Every Sunday at 9:15 AM
Worship:	Every Sunday at 10:30 AM
Children's Church:	Every Sunday during worship
Prayer Group:	Every Tuesday at 10:00 AM
Bible Study:	Every Tuesday at 10:30 AM
Chancel Choir Rehearsal:	Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM
Spanish Class:	Every Saturday at 9:00 AM
Presbyterian Women's Council:	Wednesday, Jan. 4 at 4:30 PM
Second Sunday Lunch:	January 8 following worship
Sunday Circle:	January 8 following lunch
Worship Committee:	Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 1:00 PM
Afternoon Women's Circle:	Wednesday, Jan. 11 at 1:30 PM
Annual Congregational Meeting:	Sunday, Jan. 15 following worship
Outreach & Mission Committee:	Monday, Jan. 16 at 11:45 AM
Congregational Care Committee:	Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 9:30 AM
Christian Education Committee:	Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 3:00 PM
Church Newsletter Deadline:	Wednesday, January 18
Wednesday Night Supper:	January 25 at 6:00 PM
Diaper Disciples:	Saturday, January 14 & 28 10:00 AM – Noon

## **From the Music Stand.....**

Well, my friends, we have survived another holiday season that was full of activities. Now it's time for that much earned rest! Uh ... no. More like a time for reflection on what was done during the year and what we are looking forward to in 2023. After a successful Christmas Cantata at both our church and at First Presbyterian Church in Palacios, it's time to look forward to our Sunday service music and the Lenten season. We will be doing the Seder Meal but not a Tenebrae service, but we will be celebrating Easter. It does not stop; it just slows down a little.

One of the things I do is to try to have our choir members sing music that is uplifting, as well as interesting and fun to sing. The message in the music is to be scripturally based and to teach us in a way that is easily understood. The same is true with the hymns, praise songs, and choruses we sing. Again, I will be putting out a plea for our congregation to sing out boldly and with a glad heart for all the blessings we have received from our Heavenly Father.

This is also a perfect time for you, as a church member, to let me know what those favorite hymns and songs you wish to be singing in our services. All you need to do is either write the title on your Sunday bulletin, plus your name, and put it on the piano, or give the title to Karin or myself in the office, and I will do my best to include these songs in the service. Songs that mean a lot to us help us to open ourselves to worship. Even when we hear a song and we aren't familiar with it, it can speak to us in an unexpected way; we have been given another opportunity to worship our wonderful Savior.

The Holy Spirit speaks to us in a variety of songs. Just as we learn in different ways, we listen in different ways too. I challenge you to listen to a new song, or even an oldie, with an open heart and mind. You could be surprised by what you hear from the Holy Spirit.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Donna Baskin

DIAPER DISCIPLES' DATES

January 14 & 28

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 3: Haley Greenway

January 9: Karin Hill

Charlie Boeker

Laura Frazier Locke

January 13: Doug Huebner

January 14: John Merck

January 15: Ann Bond

January 16: Pam Klepac

January 20: Liam Van Druten

January 23: Cliff Mullen

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

January 4: Eric and Sonja Varnell

January 13: John and Linda Merck

JANUARY KITCHEN CREW

Marie Hestand, Teresa West, Doreen Bounds

JANUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

January 1: Linda Brown

January 8: Ronnie Mullen

January 15: Marc or Karin Hill

January 22: Melissa Guynes

January 29: Doreen Bounds

JANUARY USHERS

January 1: James and Doreen Bounds, Will and Melissa Guynes

January 8: James Bounds, Linda Brown, Will Guynes, Greg Westmoreland

January 15: Ronnie Mullen, Priscilla Obermeyer, Teresa West, Jody Romine

January 22: Ronnie Mullen, Priscilla Obermeyer, Teresa West, Linda Brown

January 29: Nancy Knapik, Crayden and Debbie Dennard, Greg Westmoreland

JANUARY COMMUNION PREPARERS

January 8: Don and Sandy Boyer

JANUARY COMMUNION SERVERS

January 8: Ronnie Mullen, Jody Romine, Teresa West, Priscilla Obermeyer